

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02952 130937Z
ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04
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FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE 6:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY BUSINESS FACILITATION CENTER INAUGURATED IN PRAGUE

1. PRAGUE OCTOBER 13 -- A NEW BUSINESS FACILITATION CENTER WAS INAUGURATED IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BY AMBASSADOR THOMAS R. BYRNE, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE ATTRACTIVE, MODERN THREE-ROOM CENTER CONTAINS PUBLICATIONS ABOUT MARKETING, TRADE, AND THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, OFFICE SPACE FOR VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, AND AUDIO-VISUAL FACILITIES FOR PRESENTATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. THE CENTER'S STAFF CAN ALSO HELP THE MORE THAN 200 AMERICAN BUSINESS VISITORS WHO COME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA EACH YEAR MAKE CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THESE VISITORS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BANKING, CHEMICAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

2. AMBASSADOR BYRNE NOTED, "THIS CENTER WILL SERVE OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES."
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02952 130937Z

HE ADDED, "I ENVISION IT FIRST AS A BASE FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK MARKET. BUT WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT TRADE, ESPECIALLY INTERNATIONAL TRADE BETWEEN INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED NATIONS, IS COMPLEMENTARY, AND THE DOORS OF THIS FACILITY WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO CZECHOSLOVAK BUSINESSMEN SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS MARKETS." THE AMBASSADOR

CONTINUED, "IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT WE SHOULD OPEN THIS CENTER JUST NOW, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONS OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA ARE GATHERED IN BELGRADE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS TAKEN IN HELSINKI TWO YEARS AGO." HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE GUESTS ATTENDING THE RECEPTION WOULD SOON DEPART FOR WASHINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL. THE AMBASSADOR SAID, "THIS WILL ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI, AND IN ACHIEVING THE AIMS FOR WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAK-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL WAS FORMED."

3. ATTENDING THE INAUGURAL WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMBASSY STAFF, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATES TO THE 2ND JOINT SESSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

4. ROBERT J. MONTGOMERY, THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, NOTED THAT TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS YEAR WILL PROBABLY EXCEED \$100 MILLION. HE SAID THAT PRINCIPAL U.S. EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA INCLUDE CORN, SOY BEANS, TOBACCO, COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES, AND CATTLE HIDES FOR THE SHOE INDUSTRY. PRINCIPAL CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS TO THE U.S. INCLUDE HAMS, HOPS USED IN THE MAKING OF BEER, SHOES, MACHINE TOOLS, TEXTILE EQUIPMENT, GLASSWARE, AND CRYSTAL.

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 02952 130937Z

5. IN ADDITION TO INAUGURATION OF THE BUSINESS FACILITATION CENTER, ANOTHER IMPORTANT EVENT IN CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS OCTOBER 26-28 OF THE U.S.-CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC COUNCIL. MR JAROSLAV PINKAVA, PRESIDENT OF CENTROTEX, THE CZECHOSLOVAK ORGANIZATION EXPORTING TEXTILES, WILL HEAD THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION. THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. J. PAUL LYET, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE SPERRY-RAND CORPORATION. IN ADDITION TO MR. PINKAVA, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE MR. IVAN SRONEK, VICE-PRESIDENT OF POLYTECHNA, THE FOREIGN TRADE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING, AND MR. MILAN VRSKOVY, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL BANK. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 22-PERSON DELEGATION INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF A VARIETY OF CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATIONS.

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